

**LIBRARIES**  
Fiscal Year 2005  
*Supporting the Civic and Cultural Life of Amherst*  
The Jones Library, Munson Memorial Library, North Amherst Library

**Library Use Rebounds** Amherst residents improved their lives at work, at home, and at school by using their Town libraries. In FY 05, library users checked out 510,237 books and audiovisual materials, 1.5% more than in FY 04 when library hours of service were cut back. Patrons at other central and western Massachusetts libraries borrowed 28,577 books and recordings from Amherst through interlibrary loan, an increase of 36%. Amherst has the region's busiest public libraries, second only to Springfield.

**Program Highlights** The Jones Library sponsored a major new outreach program in early 2005 to encourage Amherst school students to build their reading skills. "Every Child a Reader" invited 200 second graders to make special class field trips to the library. During their visits, children signed up for library cards, explored the library, received free books as gifts, and made friends with the library staff. This innovative program to promote reading was made possible by a gift from Michael Giles and Michelle Santangelo, and by the talented volunteer organizers from the Friends of the Jones Library System with support from the Amherst public schools.

Crowds of happy readers swarmed the Jones Library for "Amherst Reads The Spiderwick Chronicles" in October 2004. "Amherst Reads" included a month-long series of family activities, featuring the best-selling fantasy series The Spiderwick Chronicles by local author Holly Black and illustrator Tony DiTerlizzi. Writing workshops, drawing classes, craft activities, storytelling, trivia contests, fencing demonstrations, book signings, and a costume parade – all events promoted the joys of reading and sharing books as a family. "Amherst Reads" was created by a volunteer coalition, including Jones Library staff, the Jeffrey Amherst Bookstore, local teachers, and parents, and coordinated by the amazingly energetic Angela DiTerlizzi.

Jones Library presented "Understanding Islam," a four-part program exploring the roots of Islam and important issues facing Muslims today. Over seventy readers signed up for the reading and discussion series, led by University of Massachusetts Professor Mary Wilson. Participants gained an understanding of the Koran, Arabic literature, the changing roles of women in Islam, and the intersection of politics and religion in the Middle East. This fascinating series was funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities and was organized by Adult Services Librarian Beth Girshman.

The Town's Information Technology Department updated and expanded library access to new technology. The public gained wireless access to the Internet, new Internet computers with flat screen monitors, updated software applications, GIS Town mapping, and more reliable network systems and support. Staff at all three Town libraries were connected to Town staff networks and received accounts on the Town's e-mail system with upgraded network security and virus protection.

Readers explored new options with a selection of audio book titles in MP3 electronic formats. Teen readers enjoyed new collections of "graphic novels" and "manga" (Asian style comics). Anime films on DVD were a big hit with pre-teens in the Children's Library. Researchers began

using the “Virtual Catalog,” a statewide database of library holdings which includes both college and public library holdings. Items available via the Virtual Catalog are delivered for local use at no charge.

“Before, no understand. Now I read and understand.” *Tenzin Norbu (Tibet) Note: before Tenzin entered the ESL program, he could not read or write in any language.*

In FY 05, 84 immigrants pursued their individual goals for speaking, reading and writing in English, GED study, and citizenship preparation at the library. The Massachusetts Literacy Foundation recognized ESL Coordinator Lynne Weintraub as a 2005 Literacy Champion for her work in adult education and English for speakers of other languages. Amherst College students voted the library’s English as a Second Language Center their choice for outstanding Community Partner in 2005. Twenty Amherst College students regularly volunteered their time as tutors for English language learners.

Dickinson fans saw the poet as a winsome teenager when Special Collections hosted an exhibit of a new oil portrait “Emily Dickinson – Her True Colors” by local portrait artist Guillermo Cuellar. The artist’s goal was to add depth to the well-known black and white daguerreotype image by researching fabrics, hair colors, and photographers’ props of the 1840’s. Special Collections also presented enlightening programs on William Smith Clark by Ruth Owen Jones and on Robert Francis by Henry Lyman. A special exhibit honored the work of Amherst author Pat Schneider. The archives of the Amherst Rotary Club were accepted for local history research.

As active community centers, the libraries hosted 573 community events, performances, and meetings. Library-sponsored events included the summer reading clubs for school children, story times and music activities for pre-school children, support for home-schooling families, teen book clubs, children’s chess clubs, the children’s music appreciation series (funded in part by the Amherst Cultural Council), plus crafts, history and science activities.

“Lingua Snacks” introduced 12 world languages and cultures in 12 Saturday sessions and presented a cultural lecture on the Chinese minorities of Yunnan province. Trustee Kathy Wang coordinated a multi-national corps of volunteer presenters. The jubilat/Jones Poetry series presented both locally and nationally known poets. Mystery writers shared their stories over delicious desserts, and local filmmakers showed their documentaries. Inspirational art work by local artists filled the Burnett Gallery, thanks to the volunteer work of the Burnett Gallery Committee.

**Community partnerships and private support** Fundraising by the Friends of the Jones Library System resulted in \$26,248 for much appreciated programs and materials. The Beds for Books hospitality committee placed parents of college students with local host families and raised \$3,200 – just one way that the fabulous Library Friends work to improve Town libraries. From tutoring ESL students to writing thank-you notes and raking leaves, 100 volunteers supported all library departments with their time and talent. Volunteer extraordinaire Nan Archer was honored at the Library’s annual Volunteer Appreciation Day for fifteen years of story time programs.

Henry Ward Beecher said, “A library is not a luxury, but one of the necessities of life.” Donors

to the Annual Fund Drive agreed and contributed \$40,000 for new materials. The 588 generous contributions included major donations from the Greenfield Savings Bank and the Northampton Cooperative Bank. The library also received memorial funds in honor of Janet Weider from Nathalie Bridegam and funds in memory of Michael R. Cook from his family and friends. The Harp Restaurant, Jones Town and Country Realty, and Blair Cutting and Smith Insurance continued to support Town Libraries with financial contributions, printing, and fundraising.

**Endowment Balances.** The Board of Trustees transferred the endowment assets from Fleet Bank/Bank of America to a new investment manager in early 2005. As of June 30, 2005, Vanguard Group Asset Management Services reported the investment value of the Jones Library, Incorporated Endowment Fund at \$7,999,465.46.

## LIBRARY SERVICES AT A GLANCE

<b>Library Checkouts - FY 05</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>538,814</b>
Jones Library	436,788
Munson Memorial	36,467
North Amherst	36,982
Checked out at C/W MARS libraries	28,577

<b>Research Assistance – FY 05 Telephone, in-person &amp; email</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38,812</b>
Jones – Adults	21,561
Jones – Kids	6,279
Special Collections	3,563
Branch Libraries	6,670
ESL Center	740

### LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Kathleen Wang, President  
 Anita Page, Vice-President  
 Willis Bridegam, Treasurer  
 Patricia Holland, Clerk  
 Merrylees (Molly) Turner, Asst. Treasurer  
 Ann Grose, Trustee

### LIBRARY STAFF

Bonnie Isman, Library Director  
 Sondra Radosh, Asst. Director &  
 Children's Librarian  
 Amy Anaya, Circulation Librarian  
 Beth Girshman, Adult Services Librarian  
 Susan Hugus, Munson Memorial Librarian  
 Rosemary Loomis, Head of Reference  
 Tevis Kimball, Curator of Special  
 Collections  
 Carolyn Platt, Head of Technical Services  
 Janet Ryan, Reference Librarian  
 Maggie Spiegel, North Amherst Librarian  
 Lynne Weintraub, ESL Coordinator  
 Henry Allan, Computer Technician

Tina Swift, Administrative Assistant

<b>Cataloged Materials Available June 30, 2005</b>	
<b>Books</b>	208,635
<b>Audio &amp; Video Items</b>	22,535
<b>Other materials</b>	409
<b>Purchased in FY 05</b>	9,103
<b>Donations added</b>	1,327
<b>Withdrawn in FY 05</b>	7,652

<b>Amherst Residents with C/W MARS cards, June 30, 2005</b>	
Adults	17,615
Children	2,425
New Borrowers registered in FY 05	2,308

**A full copy of the library's annual  
 information survey is available online  
<http://mblc.state.ma.us/advisory/statistics> .**

Chris White, Cataloging Technician  
 John Imbimbo, Building Supervisor  
 Kate Boyle, Special Collections Assistant  
 Silvia Brinkerhoff, Children's Library  
 Assistant  
 Miguel Otero, Assistant Custodian  
 John Power, Assistant Custodian  
 Seth Rothberg, Assistant Circulation  
 Supervisor  
 Lace Stokes, Sunday Supervisor  
 Cathy Verts, Audiovisual Technician  
 Theresa Atteridge, Library Assistant  
 Patrick Borezo, Library Assistant  
 Bryan Grabigel, Office  
 Clerk/Receptionist  
 Tara Herzig, Library Assistant  
 Ralph Hurwitz, AV Assistant  
 Judy Lincoln, Library Assistant  
 Joan Pyfrom, Cataloging Assistan

**PART-TIME STAFF:** Jane Babcock, Nonny Burack, Margaret Burrows, Nathan Cartel, Laura Castano-Longley, Catherine Cooper, Janice Doyama, Tomi Eve, Melissa Flynn, Stephen Franklin, Jordan Funke, Julie Gilfeather, Lianna Girshman, Jean Holden, Jen Jabaily, Alexander Kaiser, Nicholas Kaiser, Karen Kowles, Jessica Lamson, Robin Levine, Sheila McCormick, Susan McCoy, Joanne McGee, Barbara McGlynn, Wanda Meck, Jill Palmer, Nadine Schneider, Lisa Slocum, Valerie Steinberg, Joshua Tetenbaum, Mary Weidensaul, plus college work/study student assistants.

## **FRIENDS OF THE JONES LIBRARY SYSTEM**

### **Officers**

Ellen Goodwin, President  
Bonnie Vigeland, Vice President  
Edith Byron, Membership  
JoAnne Hall, Secretary  
Conrad Wogrin, Treasurer  
Katie George, Programs

### **Directors:**

*Sterling Bush*

*Jim Ellis*

Mike Giles  
June George  
George Goodwin  
Doris Holden  
Lewis Mainzer  
Dorothy Morse  
Nancy Wise

### **Beds for Books Program**

Nonny Burack